

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT — THE CUT, BUNBURY

1438. Hon ADELE FARINA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Given that the current safety concerns with The Cut in Bunbury have existed for more than a year, why did the Department of Transport wait until late October this year to issue letters to local boat owners warning of the dangers?
- (2) What is the current status of repair works being undertaken at The Cut?
- (3) What is the status of a long-term management plan for The Cut?
- (4) Does the minister intend to make The Cut suitable for navigation by small craft?
- (5) If no to (4), does the minister intend to put safety first and close The Cut to navigation?

Hon JIM CHOWN replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The department has maintained signs at local boat ramps and official notices to mariners warning of the hazards at The Cut since 2012. Recent update warnings of the hazards at The Cut were as a result of increased local concern and coincided with the department's release of a new local boating guide.
- (2) A preliminary repair was completed at The Cut in May this year and was successful in repairing the breach in the rock wall. The adjacent beach has since recovered and the sandbar inside the channel has diminished.
- (3) The department is continuing to lead discussion across relevant state government agencies to finalise a long-term management model that requires the resolution of a number of complex issues associated with existing tenure and management.
- (4) The Cut is a drainage channel. It is not a navigation channel.
- (5) Skippers have been made aware that The Cut was not designed to be a navigation channel and have been informed by signage, notice to mariners, direct mail-outs and the release of a new boating guide highlighting the danger. In all circumstances individual vessel skippers are responsible for their own safety and the safety of their passengers.